

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 6, 2002 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-22 are in the case. Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Maynard, U.S. Patent No. 6,175,830. Applicant believes claims 1-22 to be patentable as originally filed. However, in order to expedite allowance and more clearly recite the novel subject matter of the invention, Applicant voluntarily amends claims 1, 14, and 17. In view of the amendments, Applicant asserts claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below. Favorable reconsideration of the application is, therefore, respectfully requested.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-10 AND 12-22 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY MAYNARD

Claims 1-10, and 12-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Maynard.

The defense of anticipation is improper. For a prior art reference to anticipate, every element of the claimed invention must be identically disclosed in a single prior art reference; and those elements must be arranged or connected together in a single reference in the same way as specified in the patent claim.

With respect to claims 1, 14, and 17, significant claim elements are not disclosed by Maynard. For example, Claims 1, 14, and 17 recite determining "a *micro-context* relevant to the text." This step is performed to "locate information corresponding to the micro-context" (See again claims 1, 14, and 17). The word "context" is defined by Webster's Dictionary as "the parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage that throw light on its meaning." Thus, the invention of

Applicant locates information based on **meaning** as opposed to searching for an **ASCII character string** (See Figure 6, emphasis added).

As described in the specification of Applicant, this concept enables “filter[ing] information to isolate what a user is seeking” (See page 13, lines 14-15). Moreover, when searching databases or the Internet, this concept enables “exclud[ing] all irrelevant pages while keeping all relevant ones (See page 2, line 14). Only desired information is retrieved. For example, if a user searches for “computer” and “mouse” together, the present invention determines if a user desires information for a mouse used as an input device on a computer system, or, on the other hand, a cartoon mouse that is computer generated.

Maynard does not teach this concept. Instead, Maynard teaches retrieving information corresponding to text input by a user, as opposed to determining “a *micro-context* relevant to the text,” as defined in the specification of Applicant (See page 14 lines 5-18). Maynard searches based on “text,” and not “micro-context,” as defined by Applicant in claims 1, 14, and 17. Once search results are located, Maynard discloses “displaying the results of [a] search in a collapsible/expandable format based upon user-selected display criteria or hierarchy (See column 1, lines 11-13). Thus, the essence of Maynard’s invention a tool for the organization and display of data, not “*micro-context*” based searching as taught by Applicant.

With respect to claim 2, Applicant finds no reference or suggestion of “micro-context” that is “independent of a hierarchal ordering” in the prior art of record. This concept permits a user to navigate across hierarchies to parcels of information corresponding to a “*micro-context*” (See Figure 15 and page 16, line 22, through page 17, line 12). As was previously mention in this Response, Maynard does not search in accordance with a “micro-context.”

With respect to claim 3, Applicant finds no reference or suggestion of a "context construction module" as defined in the specification of Applicant on page 14, lines 4-18, in the prior art of record. A context construction module, as defined in the specification, assembles words to form small, coherent groups, or *micro-contexts* that may contain about 1 to 5 words, among other tasks. The *micro-contexts* may be determined using key words, relative values of words in text, occurrence patterns of words, a user's history, and the like, in order to more accurately retrieve only information that a user desires. Maynard does not retrieve more accurate search results, but rather enables a user to select how "search results are to be displayed" (See column 6, lines 50-57).

With respect to claim 4, Applicant finds no reference or suggestion in the prior art of record of a "context comparison module to acquire a macro-context relevant to the micro-context," as defined in the specification of Applicant on page 14, line 19 through page 15, line 16.

With respect to claim 5, Applicant finds no reference or suggestion of a database "indexed for searching by context" as defined in the specification of Applicant on page 14, lines 21-24, in the prior art of record.

With respect to claim 18, Applicant finds no reference or suggestion of "combining relevant words in the text to form the micro-context" in the prior art of record.

With respect to claim 19, Applicant finds no reference or suggestion of a database having "indices...similar to the macro-context" in the prior art of record

With respect to claims 6-13, 15, 16, and 20-22, Applicant asserts that these claims are dependent from allowable base claims and, therefore, are allowable for at least that reason.

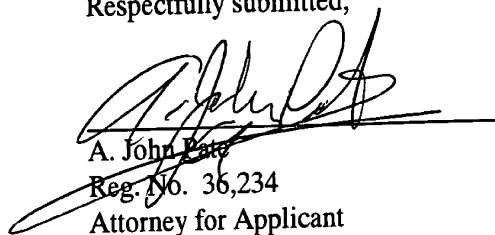
Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-22 in view of the newly made amendments. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims

by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event that the examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of any of these claims, which could be clarified in a telephone conference, the examiner is respectfully urged to initiate the same with the undersigned.

DATED this 5th day of January, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,


A. John Pate
Reg. No. 36,234
Attorney for Applicant

Date: February 5, 2003
PATE PIERCE & BAIRD
550 Parkside Tower
215 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Telephone: (801) 530-0330

Z:\ALL CLIENTS\1785 Crystal-VM\1785 Viral Media\1785-2-2\1785-2-2 PAT-FIL-ROA1.wpd

Version with markings to show changes made.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for extracting information desired by a user from a source, the apparatus comprising:
 - an input module to acquire [for acquiring] text from a user;
 - a filtering module programmed to determine [configured to receive the text from the input module and compare the text to a corpus to acquire] a micro-context relevant to the text[,];
 - the filtering module further programmed [configured] to locate [the] information corresponding to the micro-context in [by matching the micro-context to] a database; and
 - a presentation module [configured] to receive the information and present the information to a user.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the filtering module comprises a context construction module to [configured to receive text from the input module and] combine words in the text to form the micro-context, the micro-context further being characteristic of the information.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the filtering module further comprises a context comparison module to [configured to receive the micro-context from the context construction module and] acquire a macro-context relevant to [the database by comparing] the micro-context [to the corpus].

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the filtering module further comprises an information matching module to locate information corresponding to [configured to receive the macro-context from the context comparison module and determine a location of] the macro-context in the database, the database being contextually indexed for searching by context.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the presentation module is programmed [configured] to selectively present the information in a format designated by a user.
7. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a mining module [configured] to [independently] add new data to the database by selectively retrieving the new data from the source.
9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the mining module [source] is located substantially remotely [remote] from the source [mining module].
12. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising an updating module [configured] to [independently] update the information periodically [after presentation to a user].
13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the database further comprises a subset [configured] to store [the] information for future access by a user.

14. An apparatus for extracting information desired by a user from a source, the apparatus comprising:

an input module to acquire [for acquiring] text from a user;

a filtering module programmed to determine [configured to receive the text from the input module and compare the text to a corpus to acquire] a micro-context relevant to the text[.];

the filtering module further programmed [configured] to locate [the] information corresponding to the micro-context in [by matching the micro-context to] a database, the filtering module comprising:

a context construction module [configured] to [receive text from the input module and] combine words in the text to form the [a] micro-context characteristic of the information;

a context comparison module [configured] to determine [receive the micro-context from the context construction module and acquire] a macro-context relevant to the [information by comparing the] micro-context [to the corpus]; and

an information matching module [configured] to [receive the macro-context from the context comparison module and determine a location of] locate information corresponding to the macro-context in the database, the database being contextually indexed for searching by context; and

a presentation module [configured] to receive the information and present the information to a user.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the presentation module is programmed [configured] to present the information in a format designated by a user.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a mining module [configured] to independently add new data to the database by selectively retrieving new data from the source.

17. A method for extracting information desired by a user from a source, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving text from a user[, wherein the text is descriptive of the information sought];

determining a micro-context corresponding to the text;

determining a macro-context corresponding to the micro-context [comparing the text to a corpus to acquire a macro-context for the information];

locating [the] information corresponding to [that matches] the macro-context in a database; and

presenting the information to a user.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising combining relevant words in the text to form the [a] micro-context characteristic of the information [before the step of comparing the text to a corpus].

19. The method of claim 18, wherein locating further [information that matches the macro-context in a database] comprises searching through indices in the database, wherein the indices

have a format similar [in format] to the macro-context [macro-contexts], and returning [the] information linked to indices which correlate to the macro-contexts.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein [the step of] presenting [the information to a user] further comprises presenting the information in a format designated by a user.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising [the step of] selectively retrieving data from the source over a network to add to the database.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising [the step of independently] updating the information periodically [after the step of presenting the information to a user].